



Roseate Spoonbill, Aylmer,  
Elgin, 17 September 2023.  
Photo: Bill McDonald

# Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2023

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## Introduction

This is the 42nd annual report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (hereafter ‘OBRC’ or ‘Committee’) of the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO). The OBRC reviews rare bird reports in Ontario based on documentation submitted by the birding community. Species and subspecies evaluations are based on the Review Lists for Ontario, which can be found on the OFO website ([www.ofo.ca](http://www.ofo.ca)).

Any new species, subspecies or first breeding records for Ontario are also reviewed. This report deals with the review of 133 records by the OBRC in 2023, of which 106 (80%) were accepted. All reports reviewed by the 2023 Committee will be added to the permanent file kept at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and in the OBRC digital archives.

The members of the 2023 Committee were Nicole M. Richardson (chair), Alvan D. Buckley, Amanda C. Guercio, Kiah R. Jasper, Dan J. MacNeal, Michelle A. Martin and David E. Szmyr. Mike V.A. Burrell was the archivist and N. Anthony Kaduck served as the non-voting secretary. Mark K. Peck acted as the ROM liaison for the OBRC.

## Changes to the Checklist of Ontario Birds

Three new species, Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*), Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*) and Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) were added to the Ontario list. The total Ontario species list stands at 511.

## Changes to the Review Lists

Beginning with the 2014 report (Burrell and Charlton 2015), the OBRC split the province into three review zones (South, Central and Lowlands). See Holden (2014) for more details.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) and House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) were added to the Lowlands Review List, bringing the total number of species recorded in this review zone to 334.

New additions to the Central Review List are Short-billed Gull and Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), increasing the total number of species recorded in this review zone to 389.

The addition of Limpkin, Short-billed Gull and Western Flycatcher brings the total number of species recorded in the South Review Zone to 502. No changes were made to the subspecies review list.

## Listing of Records

For accepted records the following information is provided where known: year and date(s) of occurrence, location, number of birds, plumage and sex of each individual, names of contributors, OBRC file number and whether media are included in the file. For records for which the identification was accepted but the origin is questionable, and for those where the identification was not accepted, the same information is provided minus the names of contributors. For accepted records, the total number of records for the province (including 2023 reports) is indicated in parentheses after the species name. All contributors who have provided reports are listed; if a contributor is also a finder of the bird(s),

their name is underlined. Additional finders of the bird(s) are also listed, where known, even if they did not provide documentation for review. Place names in italics refer to the county, regional municipality or district in Ontario. Common and scientific names, as well as taxonomy, follow the seventh edition of the *Checklist of North American Birds* published by the American Ornithologists' Union (1998), along with its annual supplements published in *Ornithology*, up to the 64th supplement (Chesser *et al.* 2023) inclusive. Plumage terminology uses the modified Humphrey and Parkes (1959) system following Howell (2010).

All records that were not accepted owing either to insufficient evidence or questionable origin are listed separately. Contributors of all not accepted records are notified in writing by the Committee. Reasons are explained, using information provided by voting members on their voting slips. Any not accepted record can be reconsidered by the OBRC if new or additional documentation is provided.

OBRC AGM 2023, left to right: Amanda Guercio, Dave Szmyr, Alvan Buckley, Nicole Richardson (Chair), Kiah Jasper, Anthony Kaduck (Secretary). Attending virtually: Michelle Martin.  
Photo: Mark Peck



All documentation provided to the OBRC is digitally archived with hard copies archived at the ROM. Researchers and other interested parties are welcome to examine any of this material. Contact the OBRC archivist at [obrc@ofo.ca](mailto:obrc@ofo.ca).

### **Mew Gull Records**

Following the 2021 split of the Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) into the Short-billed (*Larus brachyrhynchus*) and the Common Gull (*Larus canus*), the Committee reviewed historical records to determine whether they could be identified as belonging to one of these new species. The results of this review are provided below.

### **Acknowledgements**

The OBRC appreciates the efforts of the 106 observers who took the time to submit documentation of rare birds for consideration by the 2023 Committee. We also thank Liam Singh, who provided expert opinions on material evidence submitted.



Pink-footed Goose, Reesor Pond, *Durham County*, 3 April 2023. *Photo: Christopher J. Escott*

## Accepted Records

### **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (28)**

2022 – one, definitive basic, 29 April, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*  
(Cherise A. Charron, found by Cherise A. Charron; 2023-012)  
– photos on file.

### **Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (9)**

2022 – one, definitive basic, 30 March–30 April, *Ajax, Durham*  
(David B. Worthington, Liam E. Thorne, Adam M. Capparelli,  
Christopher J. Escott, Quinten F.R. Wiegersma, Zeny A. Lloyd;  
2023-089) – photos on file.

### **Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator* Lowlands only (2)**

2022 – 30 May, Moose Factory, *Cochrane* (Keith R. Gregoire; 2023-131)  
– photos on file.

**Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca Penelope* Central and Lowlands only (15)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, male, 18 April–2 May, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Calvin E. Knorr, found by Lisa Loiselle; 2023-019) – photos on file.

**Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* Central and Lowlands only (38)**

2023 – one, 1st basic, female, 4 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Jeffrey H. Skevington; 2023-042) – photos on file.

**Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* South and Central only (9)**

2021 – one, unknown basic, 24 February 2021, Soucie Lake, *Cochrane* (Ezra J. Campanelli, finder unknown; 2023-119) – photos on file.

2023 – one, definitive basic, 30 April, Toronto, *Toronto* (Dibyendu Das; 2023-117) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 6 May, Port Stanley, *Elgin* (Katey Berzins; 2023-133) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 9 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Nina Szpakowski, Quinten F.R. Wiegersma; 2023-118) – photos on file.

Willow Ptarmigan, Point Pelee NP, *Essex*, 9 May 2023. Photo: *Quinten F.R. Wiegersma*





Farran Park, in the Thousand Islands section of the St Lawrence, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry*, hosted this Purple Gallinule from 29 October to 26 November 2023. Photo: Brian Morin

#### **Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* (30)**

2023 – one, 1st juvenile, 27 October, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, *Northumberland* (R.D. McRae; 2023-087).  
– one, definitive basic, 29 October–26 November, Ingleside, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (Barbara J. O'Neill, Brian L. Morin, found by Marc Jalbert; 2023-030) – photos on file.

#### **Limpkin *Aramus guarauna* (4)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 20–21 May, Angus, *Simcoe* (Luc S. Fazio, Christopher J. Escott, Quinten F.R. Wiegersma, found by Rebecca, Emily and Josh Mandell; 2023-077) – photos on file.  
– one, unknown, 18–19 July, Warwick Conservation Area, *Lambton* (Ezra J. Campanelli, found by Erin Nicole; 2023-132) – photos on file.  
– one, unknown, 6 August–6 November, McDonald's Corners, *Lanark* (Michelle A. Martin, Barbara J. O'Neill, found by Nui Esser; 2023-026) – photos on file.



The long-awaited Limpkin was finally added to the Ontario list. This image shows the long-staying Haley Creek, Lanark County bird on 8 August 2023. *Photo: Christine Hough*

- one, definitive basic, 18 December 2023–14 January 2024, Wheatley Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Todd Hagedorn, Blake A. Mann, found by Peter Kelly and Pete Read; 2023-081) – photos on file.

#### **Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (51)**

- 2022 – one, unknown alternate, 29 May 2022, Oakland, *Brant* (Stephanie Dearing; 2023-062) – photos on file.
- 2023 – five, unknown, 17 April–3 August, Strathroy, *Middlesex* (Sandra Horvath, found by Donna Ferguson; 2023-130) – photos on file.
- one, definitive alternate, male, 8–9 May, Rondeau Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann; 2023-008) – photos on file.
- six, definitive alternate, 13 May–17 July, Drayton, *Wellington* (Luke J. Raso, found by Tim Griffiths and Jeff DeRuyter; 2023-016) – photos on file.

– one, definitive alternate, male, 14–17 May, Hillman Marsh CA, *Essex* (N. Anthony Kaduck, found by Unknown; 2023-050) – photos on file.

### **Dovekie *Alle alle* (8)**

2023 – one, unknown basic, 9 November, Port Franks, *Lambton* (James M. Holdsworth, found by Brandon R. Holden; 2023-064) – sketches on file.

### **Whimbrel (European) *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus* (4)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, 15 May, Whitby, *Durham* (Jax B. Nasimok, found by Linda Keating, Jax B. Nasimok; 2023-114) – photos on file.

### **Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* Central only (1)**

2023 – one, 1st basic, 11 October, Timmins, *Cochrane* (Pierre A. Noel, Roxane D. Filion; 2023-088) – video and photos on file.

### **Razorbill *Alca torda* (32)**

2023 – one, unknown, 7 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Jeffrey H. Skevington; 2023-032).

Black-necked Stilt, adult and juvenile, Strathroy Sewage Lagoons, *Middlesex*, 14 July 2023.

*Photo: Sandra and Frank Horvath*





Ancient Murrelet, Burlington, *Halton*, 17 November 2023.

*Photo: Andrew Mactavish*

#### **Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (8)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 7 November, Sarnia, *Lambton* (Deryl D. Nethercott, found by Deryl D. Nethercott; 2023-047) – photos on file.  
– one, definitive basic, 16–17 November, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Liam E. Thorne, George W. Prieksaitis, found by Keith Dieroff; 2023-052) – photos on file.

#### **Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* (5)**

2022 – one, 1st juvenile, 9 November, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Jacob J. Stasso; 2023-007) – sketches on file.

#### **Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (12)**

2023 – one, 1st juvenile, 7 November, Netishish Point, *Cochrane* (Jeffrey H. Skevington, found by Amanda C. Guercio; 2023-061) – photos on file.

#### **Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (12)**

2023 – one, 1st alternate, 13 and 19 May, Toronto, *Toronto* (Luc S. Fazio, found by Brian Stahls; 2023-058) – photos on file.

### **Short-billed Gull *Larus brachyrhynchus* (13)**

2023 – one, 1st juvenile, 28 October–6 November, Perretton, *Renfrew*  
(A. Geoffrey Carpentier, found by Jon P. Ruddy; 2023-094)  
– photos on file.

### **California Gull *Larus californicus* (72)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 12 November, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*  
(Jeremy L. Hatt, Cameron K. Chevalier; 2023-045) – photos on file.

### **Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* (33)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 4 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane*  
(Jeffrey H. Skevington, found by Max Segler; 2023-096) – photos on file.

### **Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens* (8)**

2022 – one, 3rd basic, 14 December 2022, Glaucous-winged Gull, *Brant*  
(Sarah E. Lamond; 2023-069) – photos on file.

2023 – one, 3rd basic, 24–26 March, Burtch, *Brant* (Jeffrey H. Skevington,  
found by William G. Lamond; 2023-072) – photos on file.

– one, 3rd alternate, 1 April, Ripley, *Bruce* (James A. Turland; 2023-036)  
– photos on file.

Short-billed Gull near Cobden, *Renfrew*,  
30 October 2023. Photo: A. Geoffrey Carpentier





Glaucous-winged Gull, Ripley, Bruce, 1 April 2023. Photo: James A. Turland

#### **White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (4)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, 22 May, Eastons Corners, *Leeds and Grenville* (Kevin D. Reynolds; 2023-115) – photos on file.  
– one, definitive alternate, 5 July, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Cameron K. Chevalier; 2023-116) – photos on file.

#### **Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (18)**

2023 – eight, unknown, 7 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Jeffrey H. Skevington, found by Lev A. Frid and Jeffrey H. Skevington; 2023-080) – photos on file.

#### **Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* (3)**

2023 – one, unknown basic, 9 September, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Adam M. Capparelli, Markus K. Legzdins, Liam E. Thorne; 2023-017) – video and photos on file.

#### **Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* (11)**

2022 – ten, 1st juvenile, 31 August, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Cherise A. Charron, found by Cherise A. Charron and Sarah Rupert; 2023-014) – photos on file.

White-winged Tern is a very rare visitor to Ontario, so the two widely-separated sightings this year were exceptional. This photo is from Point Pelee National Park, Essex, on 5 July 2023.

*Photo: Cameron Chevalier*



### **Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (59)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, 4 May, Ingleside, *Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry* (Calvin D. Hanson; 2023-083) – photos on file.

### **Great Egret *Ardea alba***

#### **Central and Lowlands only (29)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, 12–21 April, Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (Calvin E. Knorr, found by Julia MacArthur and Susan Craig; 2023-039) – photos on file.  
– one, definitive alternate, 22–24 July, Timmins, *Cochrane* (Roxane D. Filion, found by Sylvia Labelle; 2023-070) – photos on file.  
– one, unknown, 27 July, Esker Lakes Provincial Park, *Cochrane* (Kathryn Ann Miller; 2023-074).



Manx Shearwater, Hamilton, *Hamilton*, 9 September 2023.

*Photo: Markus Legzdins*

Wood Stork over Point Pelee NP, Essex, 31 August 2022. *Photo: Cherise Charron*





Little Blue Heron, Hamilton, *Hamilton*, 28 October 2023. Photo: David Welch

**Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (98)**

2022 – one, definitive alternate, 26 June, Kitchener, *Waterloo* (Lynn Bergsma Friesen; 2023-013) – photos on file.

2023 – one, 1st juvenile, 3–4 August, Oxley, *Essex* (Cameron K. Chevalier, found by Tristan Snip; 2023-079) – photos on file.

– one, 1st juvenile, 29 September–3 October, Collingwood, *Simcoe* (Margaret R. Hough, Adam M. Capparelli, found by Jack Starret; 2023-029) – photos on file.

– one, 1st juvenile, 8 October–2 November, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Markus K. Legzdins, Luc S. Fazio, Liam E. Thorne, Dominik Halas, Christopher J. Escott, Frank Horvath, Sandra Horvath, George W. Prieksaitis, found by Rob Dobos and Dave Don; 2023-082) – photos on file.

### **Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (50)**

2023 – four, definitive alternate, 18–25 May, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma*  
(Debbie King, W. Carter Dorscht, Errol T.N. Caldwell, Sheri Minardi,  
Rob Routledge, Samuel D. Phaneuf, Simeon Rodgers, Trent R.W.  
Massey, Isabel M. Giralt, Amanda D. Roe, Mark Giralt, found by  
Les Piccolo; 2023-107 – photos on file.

– one, definitive alternate, 3–16 June, Collingwood, *Simcoe*  
(Luke J. Raso, Adam M. Capparelli, found by Sue and Gary Milks;  
2023-035) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 7–9 June, London, *London* (Todd Hagedorn  
Liam E. Thorne, found by Scott Milne; 2023-106) – photos on file.

### **Green Heron *Butorides virescens* Central and Lowlands only (17)**

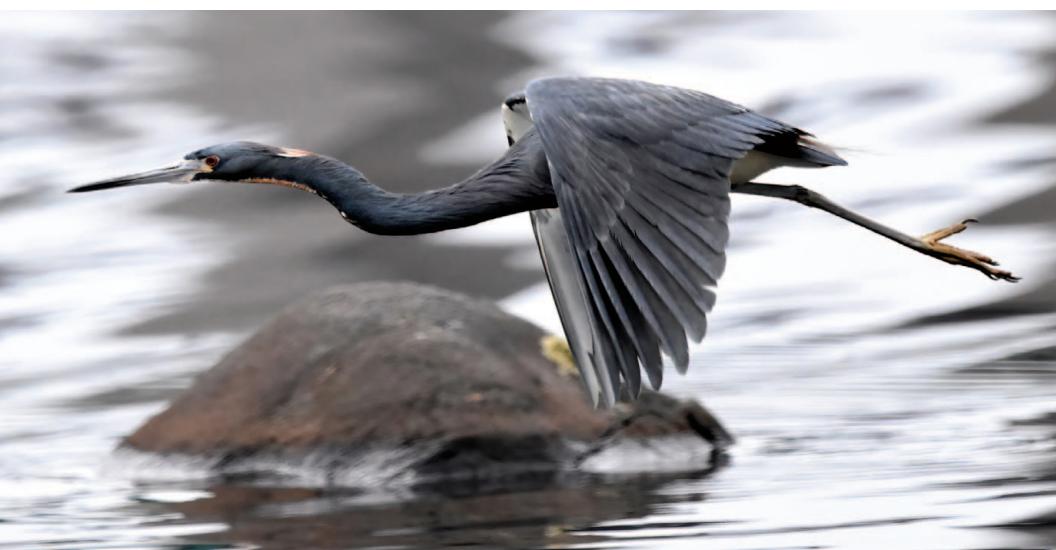
2023 – one, definitive alternate, 27 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*  
(Sheldon E. McGregor; 2023-075).

### **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (74)**

2023 – one, 1st juvenile, 22 May, Binbrook, *Hamilton* (Steve MacIntyre;  
2023-034) – video and photos on file.

– one, definitive alternate, 8–13 June, Rondeau Park, *Chatham-Kent*  
(Blake A. Mann, George W. Prieksaitis, Allen Woodliffe, found by  
Nancy Milford-Demoor; 2023-121) – photos on file.

Tricolored Heron, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma*, 20 May 2023. Photo: Samuel Phaneuf





The long-staying Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Colonel Sam Smith Park, Toronto, *Toronto*, 5 October 2023. Photo: Heather Gray Toner

- one, 1st juvenile, 2 August–8 October, *Toronto* (Dominik Halas, John W. Mills, Luc S. Fazio, Heather Gray Toner, found by Margaret R. Hough; 2023-123) – photos on file.
- one, 1st juvenile, 16 August–6 September, *Leamington*, *Essex* (Michael J. Austin, Samuel Rockwood, Christopher J. Escott, Cameron K. Chevalier, found by Dorlisa Robinson; 2023-122) – photos on file.

#### **Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* (3)**

2023 – one, unknown, 18 August, *Paris*, *Brant* (Sarah E. Lamond; 2023-090) – photos on file.

- one, 1st juvenile, 14–17 September, *Aylmer*, *Elgin* (George W. Prieksaitis, Luc S. Fazio, Adam M. Capparelli, Liam E. Thorne, found by Trish Snider; 2023-091) – video and photos on file.

### **Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (32)**

2023 – one, unknown, 22–25 April, Walsingham, *Norfolk* (George W. Prieksaitis, Liam E. Thorne, found by Josey Kitson; 2023-102) – photos on file.  
– one, definitive alternate, 25 April, Orléans, *Ottawa* (Edith M. St-Martin; 2023-037) – photos on file.  
– one, definitive unknown, 18 August–3 September, Windsor, *Essex* (Jacob J. Stasso, found by Mark Nenadov; 2023-025) – photos on file.  
– one, unknown, 14 September, Toronto, *Toronto* (Bruce Ferry; 2023-100).

### **Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* Central and Lowlands only (2)**

2023 – one, 1st basic, 24 May, Bergland, *Rainy River District* (Nathan F.P. Hood; 2023-078) – photos on file.  
– one, 2nd basic, 17 June, Longlac, *Thunder Bay* (Frederick Jennings; 2023-027) – photos on file.

### **Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* Central and Lowlands only after 2017 (13)**

2003 – one, 1st, juvenile, 2 June, Stratton, *Rainy River District* (Christine A. Hough, David B. Worthington, found by Donna Ferguson, Margaret R. Hough, Berry Elkind, Christine A. Hough; 2023-003)  
– photos on file.

### **Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* (9)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, female, 24 May, Erieau, *Chatham-Kent* (Stephen R. Charbonneau, found by Josh Bouman, Michael Bouman;

Left: Mississippi Kite, Longlac, *Thunder Bay*, 17 June 2023. Photo: Frederick Jennings

Right: Swainson's Hawk, *Rainy River District*, 2 June 2023. Photo: Christine Hough





Lewis's Woodpecker, Tennent's Point, *Manitoulin*, 12 February 2023. Photo: Sandra and Frank Horvath

**Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* (14)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 9 January–21 May, Tennent's Point, *Manitoulin* (Ruth Farquhar, Trent Massey, W. Carter Dorscht, Frank G. Horvath, Sandra L. Horvath, found by Phyllis and Bob Cacciotti; 2023-004) – photos on file.

**Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii* (5)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 21 May, Paris, *Brant* (Christine P. Dronfield Sawyer; 2023-021) – photos on file.

**Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri* (3)**

2023 – one, 1st juvenile, 24 October, Hilliardton, *Timiskaming* (Aaron F. Rusak, found by Aaron F. Rusak, Paul Xamin, Rae Xamin, Chris Sukha, Bruce Murphy; 2023-023) – photos on file.  
– one, 1st basic, 5 November, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Jeffrey H. Skevington; 2023-024) – photos on file.

**Western Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis* (1)**

2023 – one, unknown, 25–26 November, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Stephen R. Charbonneau, Blake A. Mann; 2023-108) – photos on file.

**Cassin's Kingbird** *Tyrannus vociferans* (8)

2023 – one, definitive basic, 14–16 May, Cherry Lane Estates, *Essex*  
(Christopher J. Escott, Blake A. Mann, found by Nicole Shangi;  
2023-009) – photos on file.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* (87)

2023 – one, definitive alternate, 28–29 May, Kitchener, *Waterloo*  
(George W. Prieksaitis, Liam E. Thorne, found by Robert Linfield;  
2023-093) – photos on file.  
– one, 1st formative, 13 June, Toronto, *Toronto* (Mark Reid,  
Laura Murray; 2023-092) – photos on file.

**Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii* (25)

2022 – one, definitive basic, 23 May 2022, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex*  
(Rowan D. Keunen; 2023-055) – photos on file.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea* **Central and Lowlands only** (22)

2023 – one, definitive alternate, male, 3 June, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*  
(Asher N. Warkentin; 2023-063) – photos on file.



Dusky Flycatcher, Hilliardton Research Centre, *Timiskaming*,

24 October 2023.

*Photo: Aaron F. Rusak*



**BIRD OF THE YEAR.** Fieldfare at Sturgeon Falls, *Nipissing*, 6 December 2023.

*Photo: Sandra and Frank Horvath*

**Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* (4)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, male, 29 November–15 December, Sturgeon Falls, *Nipissing* (Christopher J. Escott, Brian L. Morin, George W. Prieksaitis, W. Carter Dorscht, Frank G. Horvath, Sandra L. Horvath, Liam E. Thorne, found by Julie Belliveau; 2023-067) – photos on file.

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (2)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, 23–25 April, Angus, *Simcoe* (Liam E. Thorne, Adam M. Capparelli, Markus K. Legzdins, found by Willem Span; 2023-038) – video and photos on file.

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis* (32)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, male, 12–13 November, Aylmer, *Elgin* (Luc S. Fazio, Liam E. Thorne, George W. Prieksaitis, found by Michele Carnerie; 2023-059) – photos on file.

**Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum***

**Central and Lowlands only (11)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 24 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*  
(Sheldon E. McGregor, Asher N. Warkentin; 2023-073).

**Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri* (2)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 25 October–18 November, *Thunder Bay*,  
*Thunder Bay* (Allan F. Gilbert; 2023-051) – photos on file.

**Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* (39)**

2023 – one, unknown basic, 25 August–1 September, Wharncliffe, *Algoma*  
(Hope Boudah; 2023-049) – photos on file.

**Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* Central and Lowlands only (20)**

2023 – one, 1st alternate, male, 23 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*  
(Sheldon E. McGregor, Asher N. Warkentin; 2023-084)  
– photos on file.  
– one, unknown, female, 29 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*  
(Asher N. Warkentin, Sheldon E. McGregor; 2023-085)  
– photos on file.

**Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* (15)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, female, 1 May, Michipicoten River, *Algoma*  
(Bob G. Elliott; 2023-005) – photos on file.

Left. The second-ever White Wagtail for Ontario, Angus, *Simcoe*, 23 April 2023. Photo: Willem Spann

Right. Brewer's Sparrow, *Thunder Bay*, *Thunder Bay*, 25 October 2023. Photo: Allan F. Gilbert



**Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) *Setophaga coronata auduboni* (27)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, 30 November 2023–16 January 2024, Rondeau Provincial Park, *Chatham-Kent* (Blake A. Mann; 2023-053) – photos on file.

**Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* Central and Lowlands only (6)**

2023 – one, definitive basic, male, 29 October, Netitishi Point, *Cochrane* (Lucas H. Berg; 2023-086).

**Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi* (15)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, male, 1 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Quinten F.R. Wiegersma; 2023-104).

- one, 1st basic, female, 5 September, Toronto, *Toronto* (Andrea Chreston, found by Nigel Shaw; 2023-105) – photos on file.

**Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* Central and Lowlands only (38)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, male, 18 May, Hilliardton, *Timiskaming* (Katelyn E. Warner; 2023-099) – photos on file.

- one, 2nd alternate, male, 23 May, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Sheldon E. McGregor, Asher N. Warkentin; 2023-098) – photos on file.

**Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (69)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, male, 6 May, Emeryville, *Essex* (Mark J. Nenadov, found by Theresa Lucas and Maurice Bottos; 2023-112) – photos on file.

- one, definitive alternate, male, 7 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Quinten F.R. Wiegersma, found by J. Brett Fried; 2023-033) – photos on file.

- one, definitive alternate, male, 18 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (N. Anthony Kaduck, found by N. Anthony Kaduck and Peter J. Blancher; 2023-001) – photos on file.
- one, definitive basic, male, 27 November 2023–25 February 2024, Ottawa, *Ottawa* (Jeffrey H. Skevington, found by Kenella and Allen Johnson; 2023-113) – photos on file.



Western Tanager, Point Pelee NP, *Essex*, 18 May 2023. Photo: Anthony Kaduck



Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Gravelly Point, Prince Edward County, 30 May 2023. Photo: Paul B. Jones

#### **Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (58)**

2023 – one, definitive alternate, male, 18 May, Hornepayne, *Algoma* (Georgia Salomons, found by Garrett J. Salomons; 2023-031) – photos on file.

#### **House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Lowlands only (1)**

2023 – five, unknown, 30 October, Moosonee, *Cochrane* (Jeremy L. Hatt, found by Michael McAllister, Harrison Priebe, Justin Johnson; 2023-076).

#### **Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (42)**

2022 – one, definitive basic, 14 May, Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site, *Algoma* (W. Carter Dorscht; 2023-134) – photos on file.

2023 – one, definitive basic, 4 May, Sault Ste. Marie, *Lambton* (Stan V. Phippen; 2023-002) – photos on file.

– two, definitive basic, 4 May, Michipicoten River, *Algoma* (Bob G. Elliott; 2023-046) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 18 May, Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* (Nathan F.P. Hood, Sheldon E. McGregor; 2023-065) – photos on file.

– two, definitive basic, 30 May, Gravelly Point, *Prince Edward* (Paul B. Jones; 2023-010) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 31 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (Cameron K. Chevalier; 2023-071) – photos on file.

– four, definitive basic, 11–27 November, Thessalon, *Algoma* (Trent Massey, W. Carter Dorscht; 2023-028) – photos on file.

– one, definitive basic, 11–15 December, Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* (Asher N. Warkentin; 2023-060) – photos on file.

## Not Accepted Records: Identification Accepted, Origin Questionable

Records in this category are considered by the OBRC to contain sufficient evidence for an accurate identification; however, their origin is questionable. Over time, some instances of birds in this category involve birds that have a high certainty of previous captive origin, whereas some records placed in this category have caused considerable debate among past voting members. If new evidence suggesting wild origin becomes available, such reports may be reconsidered by the OBRC.

2018 – **Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*), one, 1 March, Trenton, *Northumberland* (2023-043) – photos on file.

2023 – **Graylag Goose** (*Anser anser*), one, 26 March–5 November, Kingston, *Frontenac* (2023-044) – photos on file.

### **Black-billed Magpie** (*Pica hudsonia*)

Eight different sightings were reported in 2023, and a number of other reports were submitted to eBird. The OBRC has always struggled in dealing with the provenance of reports of this species away from its described range, which reaches its easternmost limit in northwestern Ontario. Prior to 2023 there were only six accepted records (with nine listed as origin uncertain) for the South review zone.

The committee did not reach consensus on the 2023 reports due to insufficient information on the distribution and regularity of the species in captivity, as well as its propensity for irruptive movements. However, the committee plans to revisit these reports in the future if more evidence becomes available, especially if significant numbers of birds are reported again in a subsequent year.

- one, 4 April, Wardsville, *Middlesex* (2023-011) – photos on file.
- one, 4 April, Big Bend Conservation Area, *Middlesex* (2023-124)
  - video and photos on file.
- one, 9 April, Branchton, *Waterloo* (2023-018).
- one, 11 April, Guelph, *Wellington* (2023-040) – video and photos on file.
- one, 12-14 April, Dundas, *Hamilton* (2023-125) – photos on file.
- one, 14 April, Rowan Mills, *Norfolk* (2023-128) – photos on file.
- six, 25 July–25 October, St. Thomas, *Elgin* (2023-126) – photos on file.
- one, 29 August, Little Current, *Manitoulin* (2023-127) – photos on file.

## Not Accepted Records: Insufficient Evidence

The documentation received for the following reports was generally found not to be detailed enough to eliminate similar species unequivocally or simply lacking enough detail to properly describe the individual. In many cases, OBRC members felt that the species being described was likely correctly identified by the observer, but the report received for voting was simply too limited for acceptance, based on the established criteria of the OBRC. These circumstances sometimes arise from unavoidable situations, such as poor viewing conditions or brevity of observation.

1958 – **Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*), one, 20 September 1958, Unknown, (2023-129) – specimen in the ROM collection.

1967 – **Wilson's Plover** (*Charadrius wilsonia*), one, 8 May 1967, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2023-120).

1976 – **Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), one, 17 September 1976, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* 2023-057).

1994 – **Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*), one, 10 April 1994, Mountain View, *Prince Edward* (2023-109).

2022 – **Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*), 26 January, Selkirk, *Halldimand* (2023-022) – photos on file.  
– **Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*), one, 13 May, Old Cut, *Norfolk* (2023-015) – sound recording on file.

2023 – **Barn Swallow** (White-bellied) (*Hirundo rustica rustica*), one, 2 May, Point Pelee National Park, *Essex* (2023-054) – photos on file.  
– **Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*), one, 18 May, Bruce Mines, *Algoma* (2023-111).  
– **Garganey** (*Spatula querquedula*), one, 22 June, Orléans, *Ottawa* (2023-068).  
– **Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*), one, 7 July, Fort Severn, *Kenora* (2023-110) – photos on file.  
– **Royal Tern** (*Thalasseus maximus*), one, 25 August, Oshawa, *Durham* (2023-041).  
– **Kelp Gull** (*Larus dominicanus*), one, 28 August, Brighton, *Northumberland* (2023-020) – photos on file.  
– **Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), one, 6 October, Oakville, *Halton* (2023-056) – habitat photos on file.

- **Thick-billed Murre** (*Uria lomvia*), one, 7 November, Netitishi Point, Cochrane (2023-103).
- **Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistisagus*), one, 7–8 November, Brantford, Brant (2023-097) – photos on file.
- **Glaucous-winged Gull** (*Larus glaucescens*), one, 25–27 November, Leamington, Essex (2023-048) – photos on file.
- **Eyebrowed Thrush** (*Turdus obscurus*), one, 30 November–2 December, Clontarf, Renfrew (2023-066) – photos on file.
- **Short-tailed/Sooty Shearwater** (*Ardenna* sp.), one, 21 December, Hamilton, Hamilton (2023-101) – sketch on file.

### Mew Gull Records

The species formerly known in North America as Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) has been split into two species: Common Gull (*Larus canus*), and Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*). The OBRC reviewed all historical records listed as Mew Gull to assess whether records could be assigned to either new specific taxon. The results of the project are listed below by year, record number, number of birds, date, location, reporter and the taxonomic level to which each record was assigned.

- 1967 – one, 24 October, Port Weller, *Niagara* (Daniel Salisbury; 1986-143), Short-billed Gull.
  - one, 28 November, St. Catharine's, *Niagara* (Daniel Salisbury; 1986-144), Short-billed Gull.
- 1979 – one, 30 November, St. Clair River, *Sarnia* (Dennis Rupert; 1984-011), Common/Short-billed Gull.
- 1983 – one, 29 April–1 May, Hillman Marsh area, *Essex* (Alan Wormington; 1983-141), Common/Short-billed Gull.
- 1986 – one, 13 February, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (Jean Iron, Chris McConnell, Bruce D. Parker; 2011-058), Common Gull.
  - one, 27 August, Grand Bend, *Lambton* (Alvaro P. Jaramillo; 1986-146), Common/Short-billed Gull.
- 1987 – one, 9–11 March, Wheatley Harbour, *Essex* (Alan Wormington; 1987-1034), Common/Short-billed Gull.
- 1988 – one, 22 July, Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton* (Robert H. Curry; 1988-1033), Short-billed Gull.



*The species formerly known in North America as Mew Gull has been split into two species: Common Gull and Short-billed Gull.*

Common Gull, Niagara Falls, *Niagara*,  
24 November 2020. Photo by Marcie L. Jacklin

1990 – one, 15 February, Bronte Harbour, *Halton* (Mark W. Jennings, Bob H. Curry, John Olmstead; 1990-04), Common/Short-billed Gull.  
– one, 15 December–12 February 1991, Toronto *Toronto* (Bob Yukich, John and Victoria Carley, James P. Coey, Robert H. Curry, Ron Pittaway; 1990-133), Short-billed Gull.

1992 – one, 8 August, Millhaven, *Lennox and Addington* (Ron D. Weir; 1992-157), Common/Short-billed Gull.  
– one, 25 November–4 December, Niagara River, *Niagara* (Rod and Marlene Planck, Alan Wormington; 1992-177), Short-billed Gull.

1996 – one, 12 October, Wildwood Lake, *Oxford* (James Holdsworth, William G. Lindley; 1996-114), Short-billed Gull.  
– one, 17 November, Queenston, *Niagara* (Bob Curry, Richard Knapton; 1996-116), Common/Short-billed Gull.

1998 – one, 27 September, Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent* (James P. Coey, Dave Milsom; 1998-028), Common/Short-billed Gull.

1999 – one, 26 January, Cobourg Harbour, *Northumberland* (Roger Frost; 1999-030), Common/Short-billed Gull.

2002 – one, 26 February–8 March, Hillman Marsh and Wheatley Harbour, *Essex* (Alan Wormington, Blake Mann, Curtis Marantz; 2002-013), Short-billed Gull.

2008 – one, 6 December, Queenston, *Niagara* (Jean Iron, Willie D'Anna; 2008-092), Common/Short-billed Gull.

2009 – one, 19 November, Drayton, *Wellington* (Brandon R. Holden; 2009-130), Common/Short-billed Gull.

2010 – one, 1–6 January, Queenston, *Niagara* (Jean Iron, Willie D'Anna; 2010-041), Short-billed Gull.

– one, 1–6 January, Queenston, *Niagara* (Kevin A. McLaughlin, Jean Iron, James M. Pawlicki, W. Bradley Carlson; 2010-042), Common Gull.

2011 – one, 13 February, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (Jean Iron, Chris McConnell, Bruce D. Parker; 2011-058), Common Gull.

– one, 13 February, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (R. Douglas McRae, Bruce D. Barker; 2011-161), Short-billed Gull.

2012 – one, 1 March, Cobourg, *Northumberland* (Margaret J.C. Bain, Sherwood I.A. McLernon; 2012-022), Common Gull.

– one, 27 September, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Kirk W. Zufelt; 2012-118), Common/Short-billed Gull.

– one, 28 September–19 October, Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* (Kirk W. Zufelt, Joshua D. Vandermeulen, Alan Wormington; 2012-119), Short-billed Gull.

2014 – one, 13 May, Pass Lake, *Thunder Bay* (Gregory N. Stroud; 2014-046), Short-billed Gull.

2019 – one, 14 March, Essex, *Essex* (Jeremy L. Hatt; 2019-031), Short-billed Gull.

2020 – one, 24 November–2 December, Brantford, *Brant* (Sarah E. Lamond, Jean Iron, Ronald J. Pittaway, Andrew Mactavish, Timothy B. Lucas, Luke H. Berg, Michael H. King; 2020-158), Common Gull.

– one, 26 November, Hamilton, *Hamilton* (Alvan D. Buckley; 2020-159), Common/Short-billed Gull.

– one, 23–24 November, Niagara Falls, *Niagara* (Marcie L. Jacklin; 2020-176), Common Gull.

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